

OVERVIEW: INITIATIVES & STRATEGIES

Foundation Training 2012



BACKGROUND

- Concerns over the clerical burden on the FO technical staff from the expanded FA roles.
- Reduced time in field with customers (20-40%?).
- IT tools complex, time consuming, not integrated.
- Stove-piped processes, policies, data and tools.
- Potential loss of technical expertise.



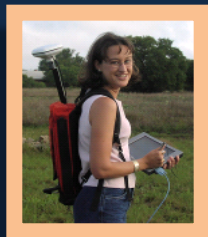
PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

1. *Simplify Conservation Delivery* – *Easier for customers and employees.*
2. *Streamline Business Processes* – *Increased efficiency and integrated across business lines.*
3. *Ensure Science-based Assistance* - *Continued delivery of technically-sound products and services.*

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

🔴 Examples of success criteria:

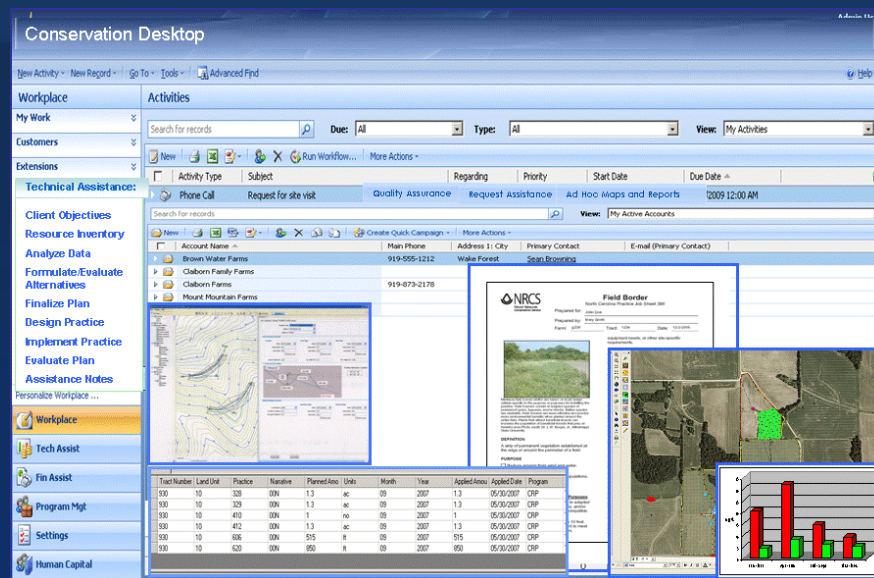
- ✓ Field staff will spend as much as 75% of their time in the field.
- ✓ Over 80% of FA clerical time eliminated, automated, or reassigned.
- ✓ Tools guide employees through conservation assistance steps.
- ✓ Tools and data are accessible to staff when and where needed.
- ✓ The “admin” time from application to funding is 2 weeks or less.
- ✓ Resource concerns document all TA service and FA obligations.
- ✓ FA business processes are standardized nationwide.



INITIATIVE 2. Prioritize and deploy information technology that effectively supports and aligns with the delivery of conservation assistance.

Strategy 2.1 Integrate Geospatial data and services *into NRCS' business processes, IT systems and tools.*

Strategy 2.2 Implement Conservation Desktop *to serve as a single portal for staff to manage workflow and access data and tools.*





INITIATIVE 2 - Continued

Strategy 2.3
Institutionalize the use of
mobile computing to
conduct resource
inventory, analysis, and
decision support steps of
planning, and other
selected field-based
processes.



INITIATIVE 5. Establish tools and processes for interacting with clients that are resource-centric, enhance customer service, and increase efficiency.



Strategy 5.1 Implement Client Service Gateway that utilizes a variety of technologies and approaches to interact with clients.

Strategy 5.2 Redesign Conservation Assistance products to effectively communicate critical information.



Client Gateway (CG)

- Customer self-service 24/7 for key tasks
- CG will allow clients to: apply for TA or FA assistance, start eligibility checks, identify problems, view plans/contracts, request changes to documents, sign documents, check on payments, more ...
- One-stop access for technical and programs info.
- Automated workflow to NRCS staff
- Download plans for sharing with consultants/TSPs
- Final design 2012; development in 2013; release in early 2014

Client Gateway (CG)

The screenshot displays the NRCS Client Gateway web application. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation links: My Tasks, Request Assistance (highlighted), My Profile, My Land, Plans, Applications, Contracts, Certify Practice, and Payments. The main area shows a map of Tract 1678 with fields 1, 3, 5, and 6 labeled. A 'RotationCrop' area is also indicated. A 'Status of your current requests' table is visible in the bottom left, and a 'Select technical' dropdown menu is open in the bottom right.

Request Type	Status	Assigned To	Date
Modify Plan Request	New		25 D

Documents associated with request:

Submit Assistance Request

CDSI Pilots in 2012

- ▶ Conservation Desktop (FA Support)
- ▶ Client Gateway (CG)
- ▶ NCP Data Migration



Conservation Desktop (FA Support)

NRCS Financial Assistance

Welcome RYAN BOGGS! Preferences | Log Off

4 Tasks

- DALE** - 02/16/12
Certify Practice - Assigned - CHARLES ATKINSON
The client submitted a request to certify a conservation practice installation.
- LAWRENCE A** - 02/16/12
Rank Application - PMS181222VA - Unassigned
Please refer this application.
- JOSEPH V** - 02/16/12
Rank Application - PMS181222V - Unassigned
Please refer this application.
- GREG** - 03/01/12
Modify Plan Request - Unassigned
A request for information about a conservation plan modification was submitted from the Client Database.

Rank Application

JOSEPH

Address: [Redacted]
Phone: [Redacted]
Fax: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]

Status: Eligible
Phase: Application
Program: EQIP 2008
FY: 2012

Documents

NRCS-CPA-120...

Upload New Document

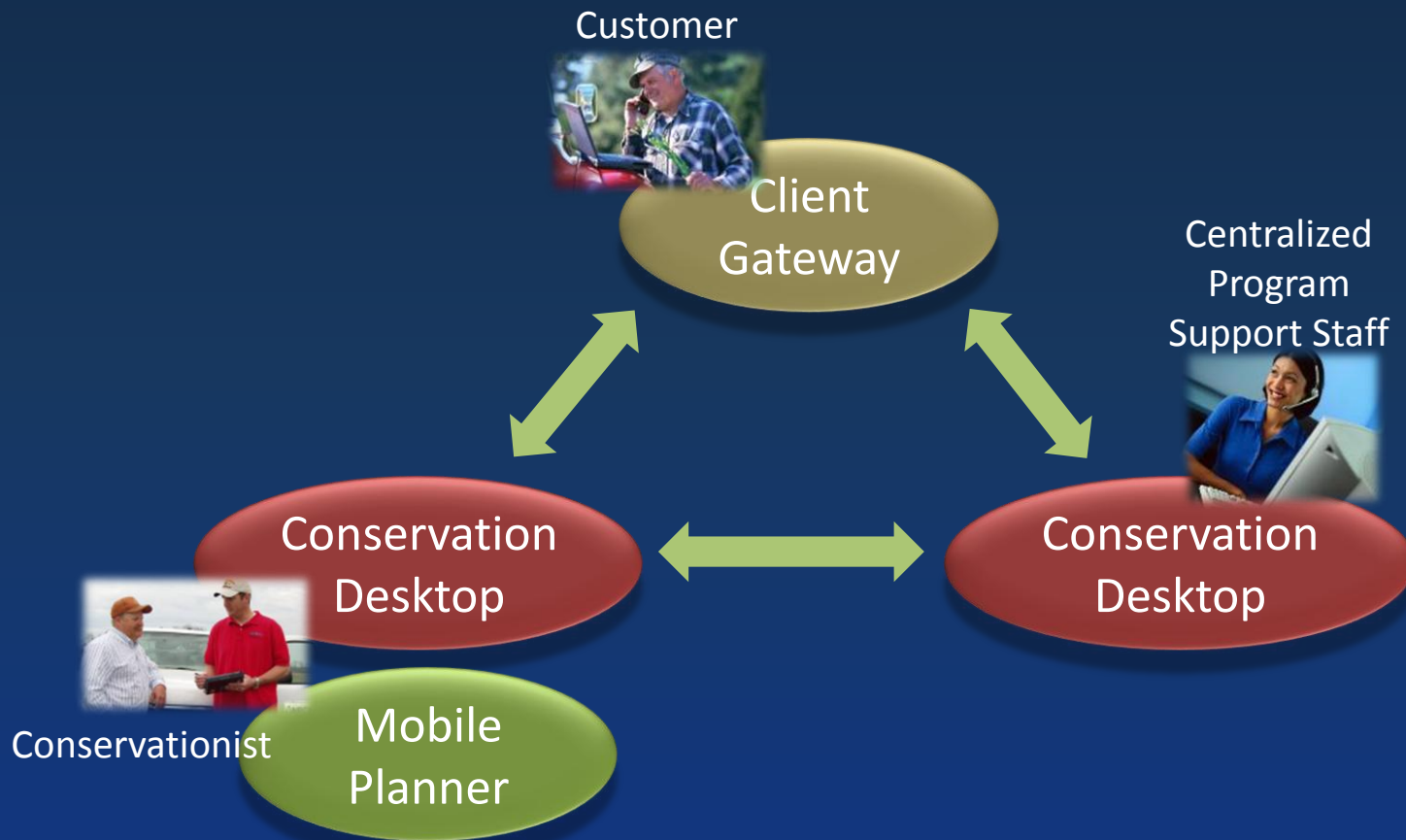
Task Sequence

Task	Status
Screen Application	Done
Rank Application	New
Determine Land Eligi...	Done
Rank Application	Future
Print Ranking Report	Future
Application Pre-app...	Future
Finalize Plan and Pr...	Future
Develop Contract	Future

Document Management System (DMS)

- Concept
- Tested in CD-FA Support Pilot
- Enhanced based on pilot findings
- National deployment in August 2012 for FA documents (for optional use)
- Will be used by the Conservation Desktop for both FA and TA documents

Conservation Desktop



Conservation Desktop Features

The screenshot displays the CDSI Conservation Desktop application. The main window shows a map of agricultural land with several fields labeled "Crop 1". A client objectives window is open, displaying details for "RONDA OLIVER".

Client Objectives Window:

- Client Name:** RONDA OLIVER
- Request:** Conservation plan for new cash crop production
- Request Purpose:** New Conservation Plan
- General Objective:** SOIL EROSION CONCERNS
- Detail Objective:** SOIL EROSION CONCERNS - Sheet, Kill, & Wind
- Resource Concerns:** Erosion - Sheet, Kill, Wind
- Associated PLUs:**

Associated PLU	Land Use
Jones NE	Crop 1
Hector C	Crop 1
Jones SE	Crop 1
Jones NW	Crop 1
Jones SW	Crop 1
Hector B	Crop 1
Hector A	Crop 1
Hector D	Crop 1

The "Jones SW" row is highlighted. Below the table are buttons for "Associate PLU" and "Unassociate PLU".

Map Interface:

- Search Results (1):** ronda
- Search by planning area:**
- Map Tools:** CREATE NEW CLIENT, RECENT, TASKS & REQUESTS, ASSISTANCE NOTES
- Layers:** LAYERS
- Active Layer:** Land Units
- Area:** 3,449,652.78 SqFt
- Perimeter:** 7,918.45 ft
- Lat:** 36.8488° N, **Lon:** -126.7390° W

Taskbar: ver. 1.0.1972.0, Desktop, 100%, 9:02 AM 8/2/2012

- Incorporates first 8 steps of the NRCS Conservation Planning Process
- Geospatial map driven process with enhanced geospatial layers and tools
- Client Objectives and Land Uses linked to the streamlined Resource Concerns list
- Designed to utilize NRCS Foundation Services
 - Task Management
 - Document Management
 - Activity History

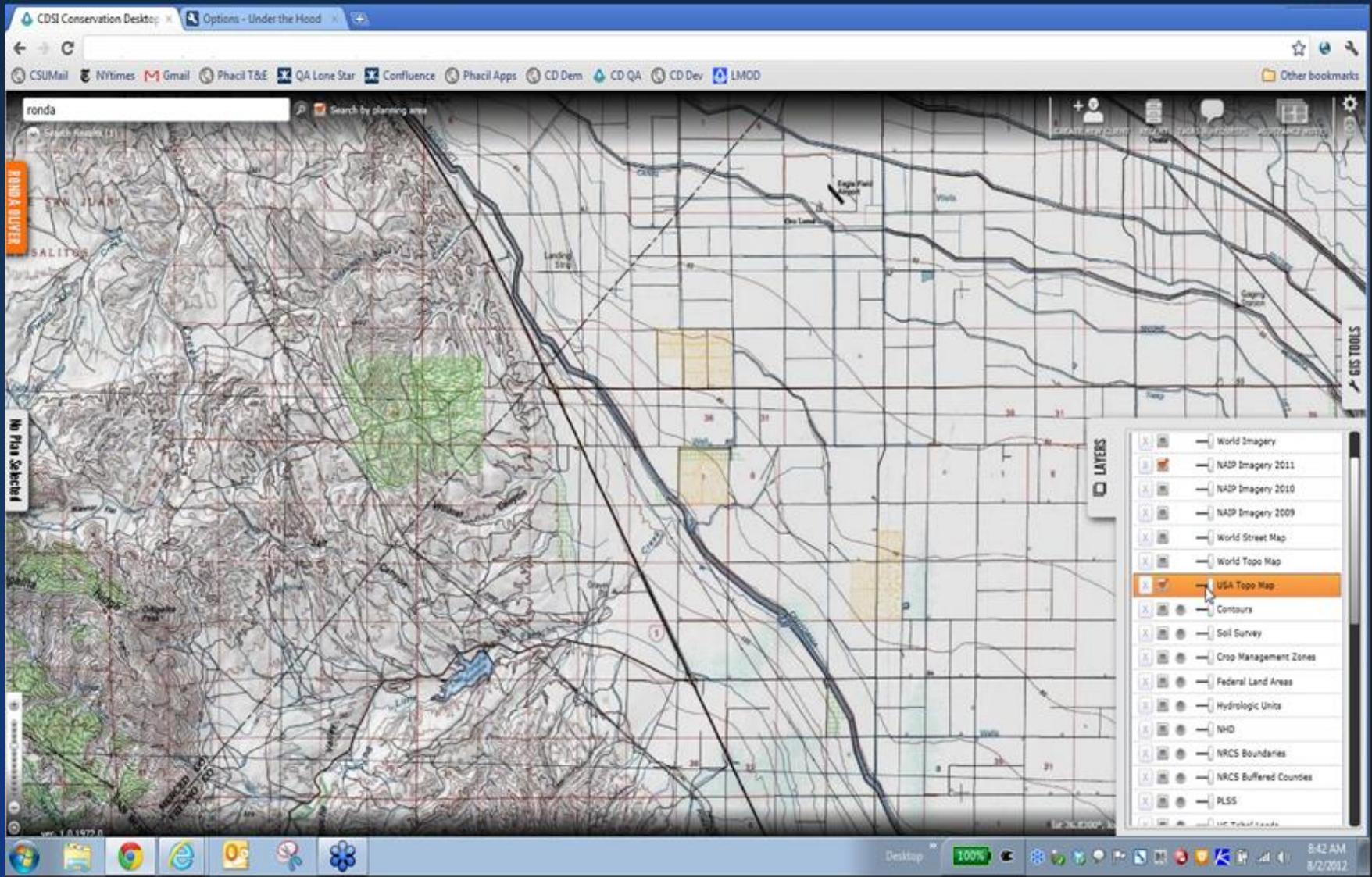
The screenshot displays the CDSI Conservation Desktop application interface. The main window shows a satellite map of a landscape. A 'Preferences' dialog box is open, showing the 'Units of Measurement' tab. The 'My Units of Measurement Preferences' section includes the following settings:

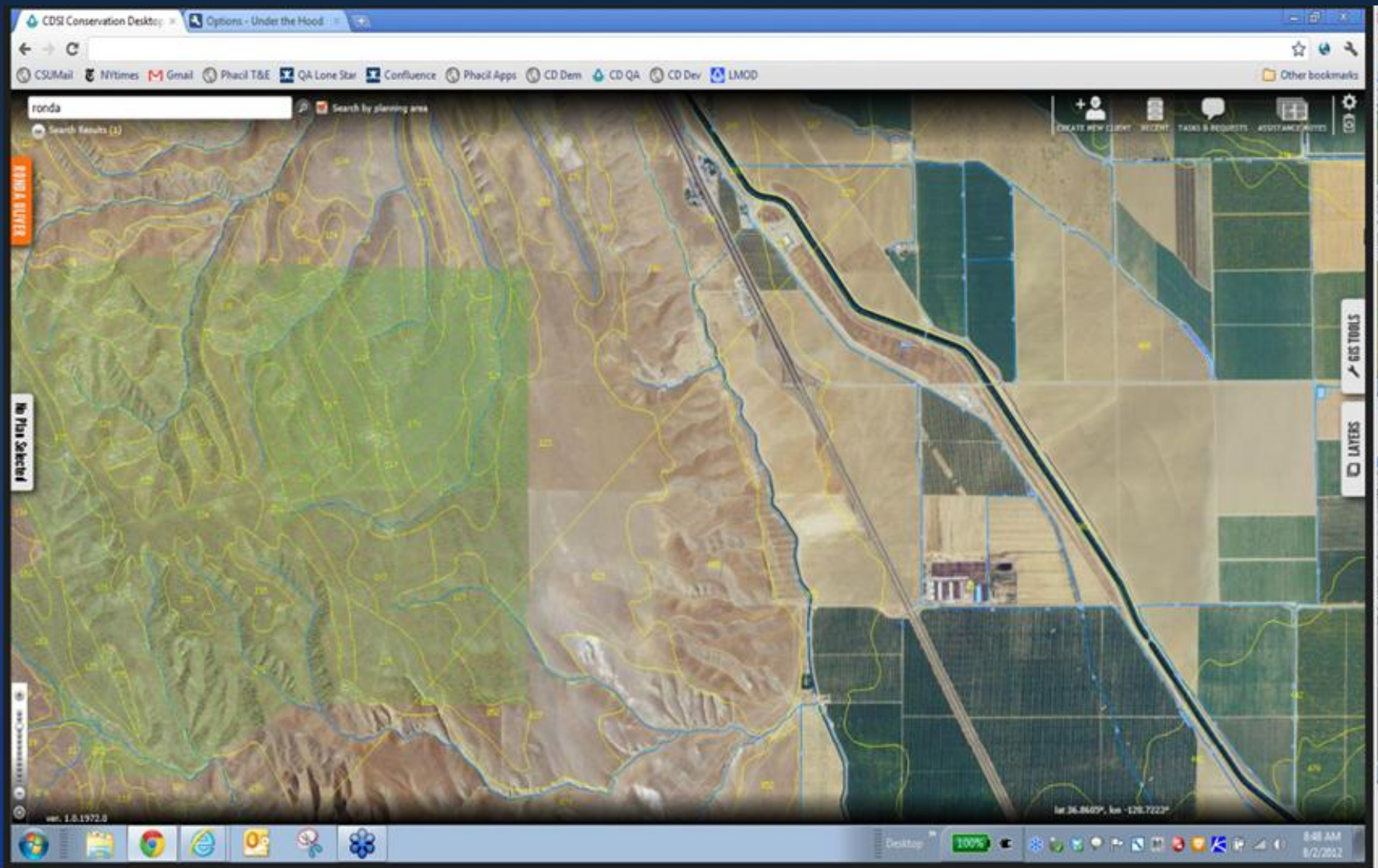
Category	Unit
Animal Weight	Pounds
Coordinate System	Decimal Degrees
Forage Amount	Pounds
Forage Production	Pounds per Acre
Units of Distance	Feet, Miles

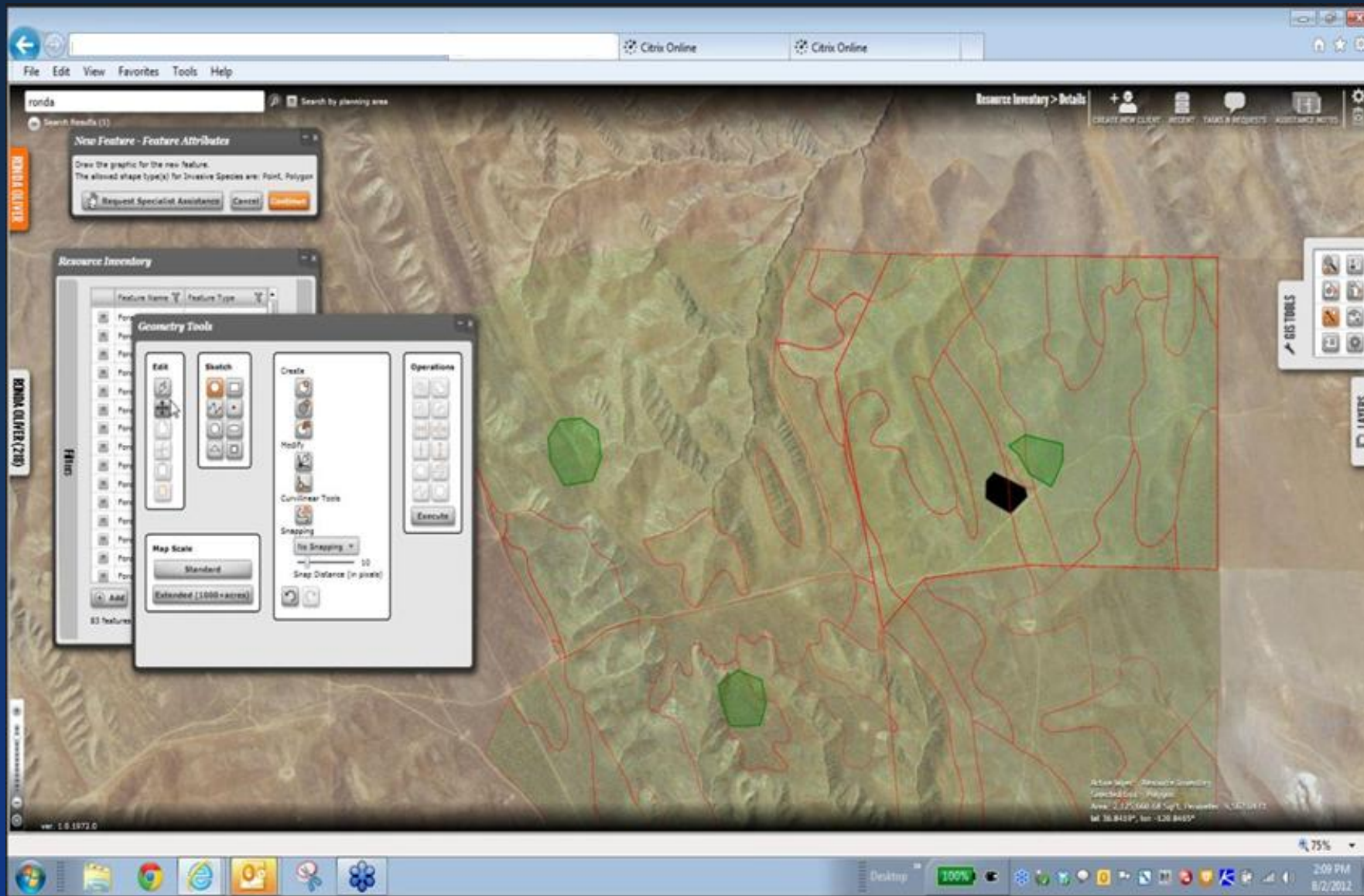
A 'Save Changes' button is located at the bottom right of the preferences dialog. On the right side of the map, a 'LAYERS' panel is visible, listing various map layers such as 'World Shaded Relief', 'Hill Shade', 'World Imagery', 'NASP Imagery 2011', 'NASP Imagery 2010', 'NASP Imagery 2009', 'World Street Map', 'World Topo Map', 'USA Topo Map', 'Contours', 'Soil Survey', 'Crop Management Zones', 'Federal Land Areas', 'Hydrologic Units', 'NHD', and 'NRCS Boundaries'. The application window has a title bar that reads 'CDSI Conservation Desktop' and 'Options - Under the Hood'. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with various icons and a system clock indicating 8:29 AM on 8/2/2012.



Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative







The screenshot displays the CDSI Conservation Desktop application. The main window shows a map of a planning area with several land units labeled: Jones NW, Jones SW, Hector A, and Hector C. A 'Resource Analysis' window is open, showing a 'SOIL - Erosion - Sheet, Rill, Wind' assessment. The assessment includes a 'Screening Question' and an 'Assessment Question' with a 'Save Answers' button. A 'Planning Land Unit Attributes' window is also open, displaying a table of land units and their attributes.

Resource Analysis - SOIL - Erosion - Sheet, Rill, Wind

Screening Question: Permanent ground cover $\geq 90\%$ and slope $< 10\%$ ☐ Yes ☒ No

Assessment Question: Water erosion rate $\leq T$ Wind erosion rate $\leq T$ ☐ Yes ☒ No

Planning Land Unit Attributes

PLU #	PLU Name	Farm Number	Calculated Acres
1	Hector A		79.19
2	Hector B		73.64
3	Hector C		76.18
4	Hector D		78.39
2	Jones NE		71.64
1	Jones NW		79.44
4	Jones SE		78.90
3	Jones SW		73.32

Active layers: Land Units
Area: 115,496,638.64 SqFt, Perimeter: 131,137.52 Ft
lat 36.8583°N, lon -120.7279°W

The screenshot displays the CDSI Conservation Desktop application interface. The main window shows a map of land units with labels such as Jones NW, Jones NE, Jones SW, Jones SE, Hector A, Hector B, Hector C, and Hector D. A 'Planning Land Units' dialog box is open, displaying a table of attributes for 25 land units.

Planning Land Units

PLU #	PLU Name	Farm Number	Tract Number	Benchmark Land Use	Planned Land Use	Program / Calculated Acres
101	Grazing Unit A			Range G	Range GII	876.70 / 876.70
102	Grazing Unit B	3452		Range G	Range GII	1,032.45 / 1,032.45
103	Grazing Unit C	3454		Range G	Range GII	893.77 / 893.77
104	Grazing Unit D	3452		Range G	Range GII	730.38 / 730.38
1	Hector A			Crop I	Crop I	79.19 / 79.19
2	Hector B			Crop I	Crop I	75.64 / 75.64
3	Hector C			Crop I	Crop I	74.18 / 74.18

25 of 25 PLUs displayed

Client Associations:

Active layers: Land Units
 Area: 111,940,965.26 SqFt; Perimeter: 122,219.67 Ft
 Lat 36.8561°, Lon -128.7539°

CDSI Conservation Desktop: Options - Under the Hood

Search Results (1)

RONDA OLIVER

Profile
Objective and Concerns
PLU
In Process (1)
CTP (0)
Contract Items
Documents

RONDA OLIVER (218)

Conservation Plan (CTP)
Objective and Concerns
Planning Land Unit (PLU)
Resource Inventory (RI)
Resource Analysis (RA)
Alternative
Practice
Environmental Evaluation
Conservation Product
Contract Items
Documents & Attachments

Grazing Assessment

Grazing Schedule

Benchmark
Winter
PLU 101, 102, 103, 104
Winter grazing (528)
Alternative 1
PLU 101, 101, 102, 102, 103, 103, 104, 104

Year
2012

Roughage and Hay Supply

Forage and Feed Supply View Summary Details Units: Ton

PLU	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
101													
102													
103													
104													
Roughage	74.96												74.96
Total	74.96												74.96

Animal Demand

Herd	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bulls	6.91	6.46	6.91	6.68	6.91	6.68	6.91	6.91	6.68	6.91	6.68	6.91	81.53
Main Herd 1	67.98	63.60	67.98	65.79	67.98	65.79	67.98	67.98	65.79	72.57			672.47
Total	74.89	70.06	74.89	72.47	74.89	72.47	74.89	74.89	72.47	79.48	6.68	6.91	754.99

Forage Animal Balance

RowLabel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Balance	0.07	-70.06	-74.89	-72.47	-74.89	-72.47	-74.89	-74.89	-72.47	-79.48	-6.68	-6.91	-680.03

Active layer: Resource Inventory
Area: 154,418,216.28 SqFt, Perimeter: 156,424.43 Ft
lat: 36.8292°, lon: -120.8292°

ver. 1.0.1972.0

11:39 AM 8/2/2012

Conservation Desktop (CD) view: SEC Analysis

The image displays two screenshots of the Conservation Desktop (CD) interface, specifically the 'Special Environmental Concerns' (SEC) Analysis view. The top screenshot shows the 'Special Environmental Concerns' list with a 'Request Specialist Assistance' button circled in red. The bottom screenshot shows the 'SEC Details' view for 'Environmental Justice' with the same button circled in red. A callout box points to the button with the text 'Request Specialist Assistance'.

Special Environmental Concerns (SEC) List:

PLUS	Special Environmental Concerns	Status	Date
(1) Sector A	Clean Air Act	✓	08/10/12
(2) Sector B	Clean Water Act/Waters of the US	✓	08/10/12
(3) Sector C	Coastal Zone Management	✓	08/10/12
(4) Sector D	Civil Rights	✓	08/10/12
(5) Sector E	Endangered and Threatened Species	✓	08/10/12
(6) Sector F	Environmental Justice	✓	08/10/12

SEC Details: Environmental Justice

Name	Prepared	Created By	Modified By	Last Changed Date	Period Required
Environmental Justice	✓	Bob A. Campbell		8/10/2012	

Request Specialist Assistance

Conservation Desktop Release and Deployment

- CD release now moved from Oct 2012 to Feb 2013
- Phased deployment during 2013 with wide-scale pilots, but delay nationwide deployment until Oct 2013
- Rationale
 - ✓ seasonal workload timing (farm bill?)
 - ✓ program year timing
 - ✓ risk mitigation/further live testing & piloting
 - ✓ logical business sequence

Mobile Planner (MP)

- Mobile discovery project during 2012
- Contract for final architecture and design in 2012
- Development in 2013
- Release planned for mid/late(?) 2014

Questions?



For more information:
www.nrcs.usda.gov
search "CDSI"